

KEITH AND LILA CALDWELL

1Tape 379

Interviewed by Kathleen Irving, 22 September 2004 at their home, 3077 West 500 South, Vernal, Utah. Transcribed by Marilyn Hunting, March 2005

Kathleen Irving (KI): Keith, would you start by telling me about your birth and your family.

Keith Caldwell: I was born in the field about two hundred yards from where we're at now. My mother was Annie Birch Caldwell, my dad was Orson Caldwell. I was the first of four boys. When I was about six and a half years old, I had a brother, Kenneth, another six years, another brother, Owen, and about three or four years, another brother, Terry. I was born June 1, 1929.

Lila Caldwell: There was a little house up in the field there that was still there when we build this house and that was where he was born.

Keith: East and south of where [our son] Mark is. That was our home until I was almost in high school. We bought a place over in Maeser. We were going to have city water here for years and years and years, it was going to be "next year," but next year just didn't get here, so we bought the home in Maeser.

KI: Were you on well water or did you have to go get your water somewhere?

Keith: Out of the canal. Our water came out of the canal, drinking water. My mother, shortly before she passed away, started buying bottled water because she didn't think even the city water was safe enough to drink. I said, "Mother, remember when I was growing up? We drank out of the canal with a bucket on a little stand and everybody used the same cup. We didn't get sick, we got along just fine." She said, "I know, but that's different."

KI: What did the house over here look like?

Keith: It was just a two-room log house. That's about the best I can describe it. There was a bedroom on the north side and just a big kitchen on the other side.

KI: Where did you boys sleep?

Keith: We had a bed on the far side of the kitchen, on the north side. That was where we slept.

Lila: I think you lived in Maeser when Owen was born.

Keith: I think so, too. We were over in Maeser. We had a much bigger place over there.

KI: What was your father doing when you were here?

Keith: Dad farmed and then he also worked, wherever. He did construction, road building, worked for the county, for the state. You just got a job where you could.

Lila: Wasn't he deputy sheriff?

Keith: Oh, yeah, Dad was a deputy sheriff at one time under Herb Snyder.

KI: So he just farmed? He didn't ranch?

Keith: Oh, we had livestock.

KI: A lot of livestock or just enough to keep you going?

Keith: I wouldn't consider it a lot, because this was all the land that we had. Just basically what you see here right now.

KI: Including this big field over here to the west?

Keith: Yes.

Lila: And quite a ways up on the hill.

Keith: Yeah, it goes across the Highline [canal]. But we never did anything with that up there. It was just sagebrush, which it still is today. As far as livestock, we had cows we milked; we had sheep; we had pigs, and raised all of our own meat. We had chickens for chickens and eggs. I remember when it was time to have chicken, one of the boys, either Kenneth or I, would go out and catch a chicken and chop its head off, put it in a bucket, take it to the house, and Mother took it from there.

Lila: That was a problem when we got married because at our house Daddy would cut its head off, and take the feathers off and the insides out, and bring it to the house. So when we got married, neither of us knew how to do that.

KI: What else was around here?

Keith: Kanistanauks'. You know where Sharon [Willer, 2975 West 500 South] lives, right here? There wasn't anything there on the road. Her grandparents were back up here, just a little ways, on this side of the canal. They had a home. Most of the homes were just log homes with a lean-to or what have you.

Lila: They were the sawed-log type.

Keith: There were no houses... Well, from the corner [2500 West 500 South] on up, there was a home that Mel Burke and his wife lived in, then there's the Larry Knight home [2653 West 500 South], which was owned by Martin Curtis. He and his family lived there till after I was out of

high school. His son and I, Clayton Curtis, were best friends. ‘Course we did a lot of things together because I only had to walk a little further to town or to school and things like that than he did. There was McCoys [2796 West 500 South]. Then that thing that looks like it’s about to fall down, across the street from it? That was a home, and a family lived in it. The Simpers, they had three children, they lived in it and it was that size.

Lila: Leta Bullock, do you know her? That was her parents’ home.

Keith: Then you came on up the road, and there was the Carrolls’ place [3022 West 500 South], the white house across the street. There were no other houses up here. You had to go about a half mile to cross the road and there was a small home on the west side of the street. That was it.

Lila: That was just an open field until about 1980.

Keith: Well, twenty years ago. Cliff and Susan [Johnson] said they have been living there about twenty years.

Lila: It was when Mark Holmes was on his mission, so it would have been ‘81 or ‘82.

Keith: That was a farm that my Uncle Howard owned.

Lila: Wasn’t it originally your grandfather’s?

Keith: It was. Grandpa had a lot of real estate. He owned real estate over on the Maeser Highway.

KI: Which grandfather?

Keith: Caldwell. My other grandpa moved from Spanish Fork over on the reservation outside of Myton, and that’s where my mother was raised.

KI: Was he working with the Indians?

Keith: No, she was scared of the Indians.

Lila: He farmed. They homesteaded, didn’t they?

Keith: Yes, they homesteaded; they got cedar posts. Grandpa had a team of horses. In fact, Grandpa put the last load of dirt on the original Strawberry Reservoir, which is now Soldier Creek.

KI: Would your grandfather have been one who came when they opened the reservation to homesteading in 1905?

Keith: About then.

Lila: It wouldn't have been '05 because your mother was born in '08, so it would have been after that.

KI: When they first opened that, certain people drew out lots and got homesteads, but later they left them. It could have been quite easy for him to have taken up an abandoned homestead.

Keith: I know that Grandpa and his boys came out and looked at it, then went back to Grandmother. One of the boys said, "Mother, don't move over there, it's ugly."

KI: I'm sure it was. No water.

Lila: They were living in Spanish Fork and when they left, her father [Keith's grandmother's father, Richard Evans] felt so bad he said, "I will never see you again." And he didn't; she died of typhoid.

Keith: The whole family came. There was four boys and three girls, Mother being next to the youngest. During school, quite often, she would go into Myton and stay with a family and do cooking. I know she would get up in the mornings and build a fire and get the place warmed up for the people that lived in it. Then she was close enough she could go to school there in Myton. It was a whole different lifestyle than it is today.

Where should we go now?

KI: I want to know if this road, 500 South, was here at the time you were a boy. Was it dirt?

Keith: Yes, it was dirt.

Lila: And mud in the spring.

KI: Did it go up around 3500 West to the Maeser Cemetery?

Keith: Yes. For as long as I can remember, it has always gone up there around by the cemetery, and the cemetery has been there for a long time. Then it ran on over to the Maeser Road. Yes, this road here, in the springtime, would get so muddy you couldn't even get up and down it with a team of horses and a wagon. The wheels would just sink in until the bed was on the ground. I remember walking to the corner of 2500 West to catch the school bus. You would walk in the barrow pit because it was grass over there and you didn't get nearly as muddy as if you tried to go up the road.

Lila: When we first moved here, our kids had to walk down to that corner to catch the bus.

KI: When you were going to Maeser, did you have to walk all the way to the Maeser School?

Keith: No. I just walked to the corner, caught the bus, and it took me over to Maeser. I went to school in the Maeser School for the full eight years.

KI: Who were some of your teachers there?

Keith: First grade was Mrs. [Isabel] Johnson; second grade was Miss [Stella] Richards; third was Mazie Hall; fourth grade was Madsen; fifth grade was Mr. Bentley; sixth grade was Mrs. Tipton; the seventh grade was Clark Larsen, and the eighth grade was my Uncle Thomas Caldwell, who was also the principal of the school.

Lila: Mrs. Johnson was your first one, didn't you say? She taught Mark in the second grade.

KI: My goodness, she was there a long time.

Keith: Well, they just stayed, that's why I can remember them. Mr. Bentley was probably the only one that wasn't there for the whole time I was there. He lasted just one year, then they fired him, got rid of him because they didn't think he was doing a good job.

KI: Tell me some of your school experiences. What kind of games did you play?

Keith: We played mumble peg; we played marbles. Do you know how to play mumble peg?

KI: With a knife!

Lila: Can you imagine our kids playing that now?

KI: No!

Keith: We played marbles. We played hide and seek; on the school grounds there were shrubs where you could go and hide. Just played our own games. We had softball. I can't remember whether we had a basketball banker or not.

Lila: I don't remember one.

Keith: Sports was not a very big thing for me growing up. One of the main reasons was that sports and extracurricular activities always took place after school. The bus left right after school was out, so if you wanted to participate in those things, you walked home, from downtown when you were in high school and also from the various grade schools. You either caught the bus when school was out or else you walked home.

Walking home was not too good an option because there were chores to do when you got home. We had to split wood for the stove and haul it in. We had coal that you had to haul in to the coal bin next to the house. There were pigs to feed, chickens to feed, cows to milk. We didn't have to worry about making work for us, there was always plenty to do.

KI: Where was your house in Maeser?

Keith: I am trying to think if it's still there. You know where the Maeser Corner is [intersection of 2500 West 500 North]? Lou Timothy had a lumber store. Well, first of all, right on the

[northwest] corner was a grocery store, next to that was Timothy's lumber store, and next to that was our home. You know where that trailer park is over there? That was part of the land we owned.

Lila: That's where your home was, because it's been torn down.

Keith: The home was right in front of that, right on the street there. [Approximately 579 North 2500 West.]

KI: So the home isn't there now.

Keith: No.

KI: You were pretty close to school then, weren't you.

Keith: Yeah, I got a lot closer to school then. Of course, I still had to walk about the same distance that I did here, the difference being that I didn't have to wait for the bus. It was just about a half mile both ways, half mile to school from there and a half mile down to the corner.

Lila: That's where he lived when I met him.

KI: Did you live there all through high school?

Keith: Most of the time. We moved back over here the year, I think I was a senior.

KI: Why did you do that finally? Did you get city water?

Lila: It was coming next year!

Keith: We were told we were going to get city water. My brother, Kenneth, had been in an accident over at the lumber store where he got his head caught between a loading platform and a truck. It just tore his scalp and broke his jaw.

Lila: His mother said that his scalp was hanging over his ear.

Keith: Anyway, by the time they got all of the hospital bills and everything, Dad had an opportunity to sell that place for enough money to pay the hospital bills and to build a basement, which is next door [3061 West 500 South], where we lived. Of course, we were also "going to get water the next year." So we just built the basement and lived in the basement until, about 1964?

Lila: No, KayLynn was born in 1963 and we moved up here then. We moved up as soon as the water came and built our house. That's when they built onto the basement.

KI: So you would have lived over there, what? Ten to fifteen years? It was a while. When did you graduate from high school?

Keith: 1947. We lived in the basement for quite a while. It was very nice and comfortable.

Lila: But still no water.

Keith: Of course, we did finally get the city water. We [he and Lila] wanted to build our home over here, but the Farm Home wouldn't let you have any money unless you had city water.

Lila: When we were going to build, we applied for an FHA loan and they wouldn't give us a loan because they said this was an agriculture area, not a residential area. So then we had to go to Farm Home for the loan.

KI: And they didn't want you to have it either.

Lila: Not if there wasn't water. But as soon as the water came, we moved in on February 7, 1963, into this house. They [Keith's parents] built on the basement then because the water had just come.

Keith: Both houses were being built at the same time.

Lila: As soon as the water came, we built.

KI: Bev Merkley told me they once had this property.

Lila: No, that was across the street.

Keith: Across the street where Cottonwood Heights is [north side of 500 South].

KI: You've always had this property then. I thought maybe they were leasing it.

Keith: For a long time. Dad bought it probably in 1929 or '30.

Lila: [It was] before you were born. Annie said there was always glass outside. No matter what you did, there was glass. She said it was because the people that lived there before, she'd say to him, "It's your turn to do the dishes!" And he'd gather up the tablecloth and just chuck them out the front door!

KI: It sounds like someone wasn't having a good experience. Well, before we go on to your high school experiences, Keith, tell me about your younger years, Lila.

Lila: I was born September 24, 1930, in Vernal. I was born in a house on First North and just almost down to Fifth East. It's still there. My parents were Walter Collier and Elizabeth Southam Collier. I was the youngest of five children. I had three sisters and a brother. The brother was the

second one. We lived down there, and just shortly before I was born the folks opened a furniture store. They had planned that when Lloyd got older he would take it over.

KI: Tell me about your siblings.

Lila: Okay, my oldest sister was Nellie, Nellie Farnsworth. Then Lloyd, and Wanda Richards and Winnie Evans, then me. We were really spread a long way apart. Nellie and Lloyd were only eleven months apart and there was five years between him and Wanda; five years between Wanda and Winnie, and seven years between Winnie and me. My mother had a very difficult time, she would almost die. So they would get the kids old enough that she felt like Daddy could take care of them.

We lived there till my brother was killed. The old highway to Salt Lake, you'd go out Fifth West and make that turn on 1500 South. Daddy was hauling a load of welfare wheat and the truck broke down over around Myton. It was during the Depression and he didn't dare leave the wheat for fear someone would take it. So he had phoned over for Lloyd to bring him parts for the car.

They had what they called a "bug," a very stripped-down car-type thing. So Lloyd and two of his friends had this stuff to take over to Daddy and just before they got to that corner, the car in front of them slowed down and pulled over. They thought they were pulling over for them to pass, so they passed. But there was a bull in the road and they hit it. It threw Lloyd out, and he hit the back of his head on a post and it killed him.

After he was killed, my mother couldn't stand having her children far away from her while she was at work in the store, so they sold that place, and we moved up. Behind the store there was a shop; mostly it was used furniture to start with.

KI: You told me that this store was located where the Oak House Parking lot is now? [Approximately 70 South Vernal Avenue.]

Lila: Yes. Above the shop, I don't know if it was an apartment before, if it was fixed up then or not. But anyhow, we fixed that up and we moved into there. We lived there till I was almost four and I just kind of bummed around town.

KI: Was that close to the bakery?

Keith: Oh, yes.

KI: Because I've seen pictures of the stores along there and many had businesses or rooms above them, on the second floor. The Oddfellows had a hall in one.

Lila: Yes. But this one, where we lived was back behind. The store was out front and it was back behind. The bakery was just down from there. Bert Evans, I think it was, owned it. I used to call him Uncle Bert, and I knew just what time the goodies came out of the oven.

KI: It was okay with your mom that you just ran the streets?

Lila: Oh, yeah. I wasn't to go across the street, but all over there. There was a dry cleaners that Freemans run; I always called him Uncle Freeman. Then there was the Confectionary up there. I would go up there. Oh, and there was a little grocery store in between them; Oscar Lyman owned it.

One day I started coming home with candy bars and that, and my mother said, "Where did you get those?" I told her up at the grocery store. She said, "How did you get them?" I said, "Oh, I just said, 'Charge it!'" I had heard her say to my sister to go get a loaf of bread or whatever and charge it. So, I didn't realize that you paid for that. That was just a magic word!

I would take the deposit over to the bank. Mama would stand in the door of the store and watch me. I was too short and I'd have to reach up. Mr. Meagher used to call me his littlest banker. Then when I was right close to four, we moved across the street.

KI: The business moved across the street?

Lila: Yes, and we moved, too. There was an apartment in the back of that one, much nicer than the other one. When we had been in the other place, you went up some outside stairs to get to where we lived and the kitchen window swung out. One day when I was going up there, the glass fell out and hit me right in the head. I remember, they tied a dishtowel around my head because it was bleeding so while we went to the doctor, and I thought they were tying it around to hold my head together.

So then they moved across the street. Do you remember where the travel agency used to be [15 South Vernal Avenue]? Just north of there was a small place; eventually it turned into the Five and Ten Cent Store. But that's where we had our first store then, that was over there.

KI: So it would have been closer to the Cobble Rock Station.

Lila: It was right next to the Cobble Rock Station.

KI: But still facing Vernal Avenue?

Lila: Yes. Then there was a café in the Cobble Rock.

KI: Do you remember who ran that?

Lila: Yes, it was Robin Richens' grandmother.

KI: Do you remember her name?

Lila: I don't think she was married to the Watkins at the time. So she must have been Fisher. [Wanda Fisher.] Bev was there then, Robin's mother, and her name was Fisher. Now later, her mother married a [Ted] Watkins. I don't know if she was married at the time, but they had that there. Then, down Main Street, on the other side of the Cobble Rock, there was another little café that Weeks had. They had a daughter our age.

All of our little backyards came out together, so would play together all the time. The Doughboy was in the middle of Main Street and we would go over and play around that. I think

about letting your kids play like that now! But it was perfectly safe to do that. We would roller skate all over. We would roller skate down to the courthouse and the park.

KI: What kind of sidewalks did they have? Were they asphalt or cement?

Lila: Most of them were cement. Now, I can remember when the pavement only went down to First South. Then later, I can't remember if they put it in front of the school, but I don't think so. I think it went right to that corner where Curry Manor is now [northeast corner of Vernal Avenue and 200 South]. Then it went down to Fifth South, in sections like that. But the sidewalks, I think, were mostly just cement, the way I remember. They were good for skating, so they must have been.

KI: Royal Henderson told me that sometime in here, and maybe it overlaps the time you're talking about, the main road came up Vernal Avenue and stopped there. The paving didn't go onto Main Street. The Hendersons had their camp cabins east of there and the road wasn't paved that far down, because it went back down to 1500 South, then you went out east. Is that the way it was then?

Lila: I can remember the camp cabins. I remember when the pavement on Main Street just went up to, well, at the time it was the post office, there on First West [and Main]. But it didn't go up as far as the highway area. There were some beautiful homes there. On the north side [of Main Street], Wallises had a nice, beautiful home [336 West Main], the Wallises that had the Vernal Express. They had a daughter my age, and I know they lived there.

There's still that little square-built house across the street, kind of. A family by the name of Olsen lived there. They were very musical. That was 2nd Ward and that was the ward I lived in. So during the sacrament, their family, with all of their musical instruments, there were drums and everything, they played music during the sacrament.

KI: Hmmm, I bet that was nice!

Lila: Yes, but I think how things have changed. I think there is a picture of their family in the *Builders of Uintah* book.

KI: Where did you go to church? Was your building by the hospital?

Lila: No, that was First Ward. The Golden Age Center? That was Second Ward [155 South 100 West]. When I was growing up, we just had those two wards until, I think I might have been in high school when they made the Third Ward. But those were the town wards. At the time, Main Street was the separation.

Then, after while, the store got bigger and [my parents] moved over into the place where the Cobble Rock Restaurant is [26 South Vernal Avenue].

KI: Which used to be Vernal Auto, and the National Guard Armory.

Lila: Now, the Armory was there when we were there and there was a ramp you went up. That's where the guard left from for the Second World War. They had been stationed there then, when they left.

I remember VE Day, Victory in Europe. They let school out and we marched downtown. But then VJ Day, they closed off Main Street at First West and Vernal Avenue at First South and danced all night. Oh, it was fun. I remember that day we were having a big family party. My aunt was here and it happened to be my mother's birthday and they were having this a big party. The sirens started to blow, whistles and the bell on the school and everything, you know. How happy my family was because there were so many of my cousins in the service. None of them were killed; they all came home. In fact, I've got a picture that my grandma had of all of the boys in their uniforms.

KI: That's really remarkable that they all came home safely. Could you tell me about going to school at Central.

Lila: My first grade teacher was Miss Walker; my second grade teacher was Miss Ross; my third grade teacher was Mrs. Wardle; my fourth grade teacher was Miss Collett, at the time, then later she was Mrs. [Edna] Raines. My fifth grade teacher was Arthur Manwaring, and my sixth grade teacher was Mr. [John] Stagg, who was also the principal.

I will always love Arthur Manwaring. I didn't learn to read till I was in the fifth grade. I could memorize so rapidly, I won the reading prize in the second grade. But the teacher would assign you [to read] so far, then you would take it home and were supposed to study it, then you would come back and read it to her. If you could read it, then she'd assign you some more. Well, I'd take it home and my dad would sit with me for my reading. He'd read it to me, then I'd read it to him. But I could have "read" it if he'd shut the book. I didn't know that's how you didn't read, you know. It never entered my mind how you could read something that somebody hadn't read to you. So then, oh, not being able to read is a terrible thing. I remember thinking one time, I struggled so, and I just couldn't read, and I'd think, "Well someday it won't matter. I'll be through with school and it won't even matter." Wrong!

Then when I was in the fifth grade, there were about six of us that couldn't read. We had all had the same first grade teacher; it was her first year teaching. But Mr. Manwaring went and got pre-primers. Each week in his class, there would be a reading test. There was a particular book that he would have you read from for a timed period, then there would be a test, of course, according to how far you had read. Then he would take the scores and the best score sat in this seat and you went down here like this. I was in the third seat to the last. But before the year was out, I managed to get to the second seat from the front. It was like it just finally opened up, and I have loved to read since then. But I will always love that man.

KI: It's great that he recognized it. You could have bluffed your way through.

Lila: Right, and he could have just said, "These kids are too far behind everybody." But he didn't. So I always thought a lot of him.

KI: So you went to sixth grade there?

Lila: Yes, I went through sixth. See, Maeser went through eighth. But we went up to what was Jr. High, but it was at the high school, the two buildings. Most of the Jr. High classes were in the “old” building, the one on the north, but some of them were in the other building [approximately 160 North 1000 West]. That year my best friend moved to California.

KI: Was there a feeling that the Maeser kids were the “country folks” ?

Lila: They were smarter than the Central School kids.

KI: I have been told that by other people. They say that there was a kind of a feeling that there were the “town kids” and the “country kids” and the Maeser kids weren’t as socially acceptable.

Keith: I don’t remember that myself.

Lila: I don’t think Maeser was that way, but Naples was. I think it was because the Maeser kids, they were smarter, they had had better teachers, I guess.

Keith: We had really good teachers. We went down [to high school] and just knew more, we were advanced!

Lila: I don’t know what it had to do with the Naples kids. Davis was always considered...

Keith: Frog-town.

KI: The outcasts of the world!

Lila: So I don’t know if that’s why there was kind of that feeling about the Naples kids or not.

KI: Lila, did you always walk to school?

Lila: Yes. I remember I had two dresses, but I didn’t think much about it because so did everybody else. When I was five, then my folks bought what we called “the farm.” It was out on about Sixth South and Vernal Avenue. They bought twenty-five acres out there. The house, back then, was a really nice house.

Up until then I had drunk milk. We had a cow out there and that was the first time I saw where milk came from. My dad *loved* warm milk from the cow. I was always very close to my dad. Like, when he went to deliver furniture and that, I always went with him. So I went with him for the first time to milk the cow and he took a cup and he milked warm milk into it and gave it to me. I drank it and ran around the corner and threw it up and I’ve never liked milk since. My head knows now where it comes from, but I couldn’t drink it after that.

My folks also owned a coal mine. I would go with Daddy to the coal mine. It was out on Brush Creek. In fact, for years they lived out there before they started the store, before I was born.

KI: Before all the children were born?

Lila: No, three of the children were born there. I don't know where Winnie was born. Well there's a picture of her out there, too, so I guess all the others were born while they were out there.

My dad had the first radio in the valley. He made it, a little crystal radio. Mama said people would drive out from town every night to listen. They would put it into a big mixing bowl and that helped to make it so they wouldn't have to have earphones if they would get right down so more of them could hear. She said they would come and would stay so late, then Daddy would have to get up early to work in the mine.

KI: It was his own mine? Did he just sell coal around town?

Lila: Yes. Even after they started the store, they kept the mine. There were three little log cabins there at the mine. My folks lived in the one and I know one of his brothers lived in the other. But they always had other people that lived there that helped in the mine. I've got a picture of a wagon with a big load of coal on it, Collier Coal.

Then when we had the store there was always people hired that lived at the mine that did it, but Daddy would quite often haul it. I can remember sometimes he would go down in the mine and I went with him. I didn't dare tell him I was scared he was going to get killed down there and if he did, I wanted to be with him, or he wouldn't have let me go down there, because it was scary to me. I can remember how good it would feel as you'd come back out and you could finally see that little bit of light.

We had donkeys that pulled the cars out. My sister was going down with us one time and there was a certain place they would unhitch the donkeys and leave them. Then they'd load the coal, then go back and get the donkeys and hook them on. As we were sliding past the donkeys, the donkey sidled up against her and set her down and sat on her lap. But we moved out to the farm.

KI: How old would you have been then?

Lila: Five, that would have been in 1935 when we moved to the farm. The Showalter house was there, not the brick one. You know the white one that sits back, kind of, from the road. Well, that's where Roy Showalter lived. They had a ranch over in Colorado, so in the summertime they would go to the ranch. But during school Opal would be there with the children.

The next house was my dad's sister's family, Alfonso (Fon) and Mabel Winward, then there was our house. Then quite a ways over was the [Fred] Bingham house. Then back up on the [north] corner of Fifth South and Vernal Avenue, where [Gene] Stewart lives now [497 South Vernal Avenue], Oscar Lyman built that and he had a lot of kids. So there were about twelve or so of us that in the evenings we would get together and play Kick the Can and Red Rover and Run, My Sheepie, Run, that type of thing.

Binghams had a two-seated buggy that they didn't use anymore, but it had been kept really nice, and once in a while Mr. Bingham would let Ferron, who was his son, take it. They'd hitch the horses up to it and we'd all ride around town in it. Since I was one of the older ones, I got to sit up front, and besides, Ferron liked me, so I could sit up front. But we'd have that seat and the other one filled and other kids sitting on the back with their legs hanging over the back.

KI: Those were good times, weren't they?

Lila: They were. We would ride horses out where Steinaker is now, and we'd be gone all day long. We'd play cops and robbers riding our horses and things like that. I think about letting my kids do that now. You couldn't do it. Sometimes we'd ride up here to the U Hill. I didn't know Keith at the time. But we'd ride up here. Somewhere over there, there was a corral. It must have been for counting sheep or something. We'd put our horses in there, then play around.

KI: You both lived through the Depression. What are your memories of that? Do you remember it being really difficult, or where you lived on a farm and had your own food, was it not as bad?

Keith: The thing of it was, we were all in the same boat, you might say.

Lila: As children we didn't realize it.

Keith: We didn't feel like ...well, my clothes. In high school I would usually have one or maybe two pair of Levis and they would last me the entire school year; and two or three shirts to match it. But that was the dress; everyone wore about the same thing.

Lila: And I had two dresses and that's what everybody else had.

Keith: The Depression for Mother and Dad was really hard because they had a family. We were just kids and Mother and Dad took care of us. We never went hungry.

Lila: See, after we moved out on the farm, we raised our own meat and had a garden and all that, so we didn't go hungry. Later, as I heard my folks talk about it, I know it was difficult. Before I was born, this was when they had two children, they homesteaded a place halfway between Jensen and Vernal. They lived one whole winter in a tent. It was boarded up.

It's interesting. It depends, I guess, on where you are in your life. In Mama's history she says, "We were quite comfortable." But my uncle was living with them because his mother had died and he was just a little boy and as he tells about it, he said, "I don't ever remember being so cold in my life."

I know Mama took an old sweater and unraveled it and knit mittens for him. Their third child was born while they lived there. By that time they had gotten a little one-room log place built. Daddy said all they had that winter to eat was carrots. He would go out and work, then he'd come back in and eat carrots and go back out and work. He had two bullets left and Mama was expecting the baby. When a baby was born, the doctors would come and stay and you were expected to feed them. So they saved the two bullets, and when the doctor came, Daddy went out and shot two rabbits. That's how they fed the doctor while he was there. I can't even imagine that.

KI: Do you remember seeing men come through who were looking for work, especially when you were playing around in the streets downtown? You were so little, you might not remember.

Lila: I probably didn't even realize. I remember when the CCs [Civilian Conservation Corps] came. Now, *nice* girls didn't date them.

KI: Yes, I know.

Lila: I was too young to be dating, but I remember.

KI: But it happened all the time!

Lila: Yes, it happened! I remember, in our ward, a couple of the girls ended up marrying them and they ended up joining the Church and being wonderful people.

Keith: Wasn't Walter Busch one of those?

Lila: Yes, Walter Busch and Homer Robertson.

Keith: His wife was a Winder? [Walter Busch's wife was Ada Winder.]

Lila: Well, they were both; they were sisters. Their whole family was very staunch, so for them to date them it was really something. As a child I remember talks like that.

KI: I talked to Lawrence DeVed, who came to Vernal with the CCCs, who gave me the other side of that story. He was living back East and there was *no* work, there was *no* way to get money, you couldn't go to school or anything else. That's what put him into the CCCs. He wasn't a bad person. I'm sure most of them weren't.

Lila: But up until that time, I think we were totally LDS, probably, or so close to it, and these boys weren't. I think that was the big thing.

Keith: Plus, it was a camp with *men*. What could be going on there?

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Lila: Now, see, my Grandfather Collier helped build houses. In my uncle's history, he talks about riding to town with his father one day. They would pass a brick house and he'd say, "Dad, did you help build that?" And he'd say yes. They'd pass another one. "Dad, did you help build that?" He'd say yes. Finally, he said, "Son, I helped build every brick home in this valley." He helped build J.C. Penney's and all of that.

KI: Is that because he was a bricklayer?

Lila: Yes. In fact, he taught the Manwarings and the other people. His father-in-law was a bricklayer, you know how they used to put them out as an apprentice and it was like they almost owned you, in New Jersey, before he ever joined the Church. So he learned the bricklaying trade there. He helped to build some of the brick homes in Nauvoo. So then he taught my grandfather how to lay brick. When my grandparents moved here from Provo when my dad was two years old, in 1890, Grandpa would have helped to build all the brick homes at that time.

KI: Did he help make the brick, too, or just used the brick once it was made? I know they made local brick here for a while.

Lila: I remember going with my daddy out to the brick place where they made it.

Keith: Oh, they made a lot of brick. They had a regular factory.

Lila: I don't know if Grandpa helped to do it or not. He brought in some of the first fruit trees into the valley, and the walnut trees.

We probably owned about the first electric refrigerator in the valley, because in the store, in order to get the people to try them out, the companies would give the merchant one to use for a year so that they could say how nice it was. I think it was the Crosley Company that gave my folks this refrigerator for the year. At the end of the year, they gave it back because it was too expensive and we could get along without it. But we didn't get along without it very long, because by that time *they* liked cold milk and that.

KI: Up until then I guess you were just using ice.

Lila: Iceboxes, yes. I can remember the iceman coming around with the ice.

KI: This would have been the Calders?

Lila: Yes.

KI: What did you do for refrigeration up here, Keith?

Keith: My grandfather had an icehouse over there. His home was almost due north on the Maeser Highway from here. I remember many times going through the field to Grandfather's place. In fact, I remember Mother and Dad telling me that I would get tired and want to be carried, so they would get me a little willow, and they were the horses and I was willowing them along. That's how they would get me to walk, or run. They would get out ahead of me and I would try to catch them. That was their way of getting me to walk instead of carrying me. He had a nice house over there.

KI: Where did he get the ice from?

Keith: Calder's pond.

KI: Oh, everybody got it from Calders.

Keith: He put it away there, then just used it. It seems to me like we did have a refrigerator, then, an electric one. Even though we lived back here, somehow we got electricity. I wasn't very old when we got electricity, but it seems like we did have a refrigerator. I don't actually remember

being without a refrigerator. The thing I remember about Grandpa's icehouse was it was a great place to shade up in the summertime.

Lila: That's what I was going to say. There was no air conditioning and Bingham had an icehouse. They would cover the ice with sawdust and, oh, it felt so good to crawl up there and lay in that nice cool place. I can remember all of us kids crawling up there and sitting and playing games and telling stories, because it was so cool. The only place to go that it was cool.

KI: Lila, you probably had more opportunities for entertainment than Keith since you lived downtown. Did you ever go to movies or do things like that, or did you just make your own entertainment?

Lila: I can remember going to movies when we were in school, but I don't particularly remember. I remember the old Vogue Theater, which, as far as I know, was the first theater here.

KI: The Vogue was on one side of the street and the Main was on the other, right?

Lila: The Vogue was there before the Main was there. I remember when they built the Main. In fact, my first memory of the Vogue: they had an organ down in a little pit, they weren't using it then, but it was still there from the silent movies.

Keith: I remember going to the movies. We used to go like once a week when we were in high school. You walked down to the movie. Then usually, the drugstore was open and you'd have an ice cream, or a drink or something there. There'd be a group of you together; and then we'd start walking home, dropping this one off here and this one here and this one here, just as we all headed towards our various homes. But I think that when we were in high school, it was probably about a weekly affair that we were able to go to the movie.

Lila: I remember in grade school going to the Saturday afternoon matinee. They would have a serial and you *had* to go because you had find out what happened.

Keith: Like the *Green Hornet*.

Lila: You know, you think about kids watching TV now. We were just as interested in the shows on the radio. Every Saturday they had *Let's Pretend*, and this was different fairy tales that they would do.

Keith: The radio had *Jack Armstrong, the All American Boy*. We would listen to those on the radio and they were weekly, just a weekly thing where you wanted to hear what happened next.

Lila: And they had *Gangbusters* and it terrified me. My sisters wanted to listen to it and I'd bawl.

Keith: And if you bawled, they were lucky to get to listen. She was spoiled! [Laughter]

Lila: Daddy would usually take me somewhere while they did it. He was so patient with me.

Mama would clerk in the store, but Daddy would do the deliveries and stuff like that, but he also farmed, so I would always go with him. I remember, we called them gum boots, but they were the irrigating boots, and I wanted a pair so bad. He was going to be getting some new ones, so he told me he'd get some for me. Well, he came home and he had his, and I said, "Where's mine?" He said, "Oh! I must have forgot." Then he put his foot down in one of his and he said, "What's this?" And he dumps it out and my boot was inside of his. Then he took a little hoe and cut it off so it would fit me.

He must have been so patient, because I'd follow behind him when he was irrigating and I would change the settings.

Keith: He had to be awfully patient because with her little hoe, she would have had a terrible time keeping the water going where he wanted it.

Lila: I remember putting in an electric fence and as we would be doing these thing, he would be telling me stories, like "Wolf, Wolf" and that kind. When we moved out there [to the farm] there was a cherry tree. I *loved* cherries, so he taught me a little song about:

"Little Robin Redbreast sitting in a tree,
Singing, 'Here are cherries, they are good for me.'
Along came little Tommy and to the Robin said,
'These are Tommy's cherries... [and something to the effect they weren't for
him.]

'Did your daddy make them?' the little Robin said.

'No,' said little Tommy, hanging down his head."

Then something to the effect that ... come back there is enough for Robin and for Tommy, too.

KI: That sounds wonderful. It's great that you remember that so well. So, let's move up to high school for a bit. When you get into high school you start to like different subjects and kind of specialize, did you, Keith?

Lila: You were always in the business stuff.

Keith: When I got into accounting classes, I seemed to like that. I was a fairly good typist, just average.

Lila: You were much faster than average.

Keith: But that seemed to be where my interest lay. I got good grades in almost all of the classes.

Lila: He was a good student and he was on the accounting team and that type of thing.

Keith: Well, we went to school during the nine months. My dad, when he grew up, their parents would take them out of school to put up the crops and my dad was just dead set against that. I

went to *school*. He would put the crops up, but I went to *school*. I didn't get to get out to help them with that part of it until school was finished.

Then after school was out, that's the thing I remember most, the summers we would spend. Dad owned this piece of property here and my Uncle Howard [Caldwell] owned what is now Cottonwood Heights [subdivision]. Then Grandpa owned a lot of land over in Maeser, then another uncle owned land in Jensen. But it was during the war and help was scarce, so there was Dad, Uncle Howard and Uncle Am [Amasa Caldwell], and then I had a cousin and myself. But the five of us basically put up all of that hay. We would go to one field, get it put up, then it would be time to start cutting the other one, get it put up and go to the next. We just went from one place to the other all summer long.

KI: Long hours, I'm sure.

Keith: But we didn't feel bad about it.

Lila: Everybody else was working.

Keith: When we would quit for the day, we always had enough energy to play and do things. We'd swim in the canal, get to go to the movie, walk to town and back, even though we'd been out all day. It didn't seem to make any difference. There was a couple of times during the hay season that we got finished up down in Jensen and it was going to be a couple of days before we got back up here. They had some sheep they wanted to take up on Blue Mountain. My uncle in Jensen also had sheep and grazing rights up on Blue Mountain. So Jim [Campbell] and I got the honors of taking the sheep up on the mountain with our horses. [Ed. note: Jim was Howard's step-son. Minnie was his mother.]

One time I remember we finally got the sheep up where they belonged, 'course there was a sheep wagon there, but it had rained before we got there and we were soaked, absolutely soaked. But we got the sheep where they belonged, then we got in the sheep wagon and we got a fire started, and warming up and drying off, fixing ourselves some supper. It was still raining, but after we got in the sheep wagon it didn't matter because it was pretty comfy. We allowed as how it was so late and raining so much, they probably wouldn't come and get us for a couple of days, that we'd have some time off. Of course, up there, we could run our horses all over the mountain. But about 4 o'clock in the morning, here is Uncle Am: "Come on, you guys, get up, we've got to go!" So we went back down.

Then one time we had some time off and we took our horses and went out to Jones Hole, fishing. We got to Jones Hole a whole different way than most people do today. We went out through Jensen, out towards Island Park. It's funny. You're out there and it's just flat land, sagebrush and flat land. Then you get to this little entrance to Island Park and there's just a little tiny trail down there, but you get down in there and there's all sorts of green trees and grass and everything else. Of course, the river's flowing through there. It's not actually the river, I guess, it's a portion of the river, because it wasn't a great big stream. So we set up camp and did some fishing, then we came back home.

But we had some good times, we worked most of the time, in the summertime, but we also had time for fun. I remember Jim's family. His step-dad was my Uncle Howard, who owned this piece of property here. Howard and Dad and Mother and Aunt Minnie were pretty close, the

four of them. Jim had a sister Jenene [Caldwell; Howard and Minnie's full daughter], and then Kenneth came along. We usually got together for the 4th or 24th of July. I remember we would go down to the creamery [Calder's] and get a case of pop and some ice cream, and meet at one place or the other. Mother and Minnie were both really good cooks.

Jim, during high school, down here on the corner, well across the street from the Care Center, Duane Johnson had a dairy and Jim came and spent the winter with them, milking cows and doing things like that for his board and room so he could participate in some of the school activities. He liked the plays.

Lila: That's how I met Keith; I was on a date with Jim and we were doubling.

Keith: The next thing you know, I was calling her up on Saturdays. She was really easy to talk to. Then the next thing you know, it didn't matter that it was my cousin, I still wanted to date her. Lila: At the time, I felt bad that it caused a rift between them, but now that I have grandsons of my own, I think how bad it must have made their mothers feel. At Thanksgiving dinner one time, one of the uncles said, "Why don't you guys bring your girls?" And somebody said, "Because it's not *girls*, it's *girl*." So I dated them both through high school.

Keith: But we got past that.

KI: Good for you. So, did you do many activities when you were in high school?

Keith: No, not much. I was on the accounting and typing teams. As far as sports or drama, no. We loved to go to the basketball games, it was a real adventure. You'd get on the bus and go to Tabiona, then Alterra!

Lila: My folks wouldn't let me ride with them because they were afraid something would happen.

KI: On the bus or in your own car?

Lila: No, I could go on the bus, but I couldn't go in the car. So the one time we had a game at Alterra, he drove over and I went over on the bus and then we met there. After the ball games, there would be a dance, so a bunch of us said, "Let's just drive over to Roosevelt for a goodie, then we'll get you back for the bus." We missed the bus. I was in trouble. My dad was always a softie, though, so he could kind of talk my mother out of being too upset.

Keith: Her mother had to practically, well, she did threaten him to see that she was in school, you know, in the first grade, because she had been so used to going everywhere with him, and he liked her to go with him.

Lila: I remember my mother saying, "Now, Walter, be sure she gets into school today."

Keith: And sometimes Walter would get her into school, and sometimes he wouldn't.

Lila: Sometimes I would beg him into going with him.

KI: What year did you graduate, Keith?

Keith: I graduated in 1947.

KI: So, that was post-war. Now, Lila, tell me about your high school experience, you town girl.

Lila: I liked drama and debate and that sort of stuff. In fact, Keith was going to get to go to the regional with the accounting team and so I thought, "Well, I surely don't want him going without me." So I got really busy and won the ex-temp so I could go. Stella Oaks was our teacher; she was just really a special teacher.

We had the D.E. Club, Distributive Education. I think it was the forerunner to DECA, marketing classes. In fact, my mother was very instrumental in getting it into the school. The merchants would hire the students that were taking it and we would get out the last hour of school to go work. Jim, his cousin, went to work for J.C. Penney's and that ended up being his career. He was a manager and moved all over with them.

KI: That was where Gale's bookstore is now, right? [4 West Main]

Keith: Yes. It was interesting with J.C. Penney's. They had a cement curb out front of the store and the guys would congregate there, sit there and have a cigarette or just a cup of coffee or a drink or something and visit, for hours. So they put little metal spikes in the cement, not really sharp enough to do any damage, but they were uncomfortable. It didn't stop them at all. They still sat there.

Lila: I always wondered how they managed it. I can remember, behind J.C. Penney's they still had places to hitch horses and buggies.

Keith: Across the street behind Ashton's, too, a place to hitch your horses.

Lila: Then during the war you could only buy two pair of shoes a year. You had to have stamps, you know. Keith's brother just went through shoes like everything, he said, so the whole family was giving him their stamps to keep him in shoes. That's when they started coming out with something besides leather. It was the leather they had to have for the Army, for their boots. We have a family group picture and we are all really dressed up and I've got this pair of shoes on with wooden soles because you could buy them without stamps.

You could only buy so many canned goods because it was made of metal, from tin. Oh, and sugar. Of course, LDS people had a lot of stuff in storage and you didn't let anyone know that you had extra sugar in storage or they would come and get it.

KI: How did you store sugar? Just in barrels, not in cans?

Keith: Yes, it was in cans.

Lila: It was stored in five-gallon-type cans, you know. A lot of people would have five hundred pounds or more. I remember—I think it was the Montgomerys—they found out about it and they come and took it.

KI: Who took it?

Lila: I don't know. Somebody to do with the rationing.

Keith: The OPA, Office of Price Administration.

Lila: Price Administration—my mother hated them.

KI: They pretty much dictated prices on everything, didn't they?

Lila: Yes.

KI: You probably have more memories of the war years than you do of the Depression.

Keith: Oh, yes. I was in the FFA, also, during high school. I had some sheep that I raised, then I showed them and marketed them. Like they do now at the livestock shows, you'd show them, then sell them.

Lila: I remember during the war you couldn't get chewing gum very often because they sent it to the troops. But once in a while they'd get it in downtown and, boy, it didn't last very long. I remember in my English class, ReVoe Hullinger getting caught chewing gum. The teacher said, "Spit that in that wastebasket." She said, "Oh, I can't! I can't! It's Lorraine's and she'll kill me if I lose it! I only get to chew it just this period!" They were taking turns different periods chewing that gum.

KI: How interesting! When you graduated, Keith, did you go into the service? Were you drafted at all?

Keith: When I graduated, I went out to the LDS Business College. I was there for parts of two years. Then I got a job, then they drafted me.

Lila: That was the Korean War then.

Keith: That was the Korean War. But I was drafted for two years and that was when we got married.

KI: During that time period or before?

Keith: I got drafted and we were married before I went in.

Lila: We got engaged at Christmastime. We knew he was going to be drafted. I was going to the Y at that time, I was in my second year there. We were going to be really responsible; I was

going to stay and finish. But when that draft notice came, we got married just as fast as we could so I could go with him. We were together the whole time. Because of his training, they put him in Headquarters Company with the records and things and he never got sent overseas. Keith Jr. was born while we were in the service.

KI: Did you finish your program at the business college? Was it a program or an actual degree?

Keith: I guess I didn't quite graduate, but it was close. Then when I got the job, when I came back out of the service, I just went back to the job I had.

KI: Where was that?

Keith: I worked at Vernal Refinery, down here on Green River, it's not there any more [Uinta Oil Refinery in Jensen]. Then Utah Co-operative Association owned that refinery and sometimes I worked in Salt Lake and sometimes out here.

Lila: You were working in Salt Lake when you were drafted, because I was going to school in Provo and he would drive down. Then when we came home, we wanted to live in Vernal and there was an opening here, so he went to work here. But we were only here a year and they transferred him back to Salt Lake. We were in Salt Lake about five years, then another opening here came and we asked for it. So, back here again. By that time wasn't the refinery in Rangely?

Keith: Well, that was the reason for the opening. The office manager at Jensen, they were moving the refinery over to Rangely and he wouldn't move. He quit and got another job, so that opening was available, and I took it and worked there as the office manager at the refinery in Rangely.

Lila: Then we were building the house, and they closed that down. So we could decide to go back to Salt Lake, but we didn't want to.

Keith: Well, we were thinking of going back to Salt Lake or were we going to stay here. Truth be known, there was no job for me in Salt Lake. The job that I'd had was gone. So then is when I went to work for Western Petroleum. It was owned by a man by the name of Alvin Kay, who was the mayor of Vernal for quite some time. He also managed the liquor store.

Lila: He was a really a neat man.

Keith: He was really one of a kind. I went to work for him and had been there close to nine years. 'Course, during that nine years I wanted to get some kind of a business for myself and I was looking a little bit here and there.

Lila: Then there was the woman you did books for on Saturdays. She asked you if you'd consider full time.

Keith: Well, that was just part-time, and I said no. Anyway, [Av] walked in the office one day. He had two sons that were working there as well, myself and these two sons, then the rest of the employees. He said, "Would you guys like to buy me out?" "Yeah, but we don't have any money to buy you out with." He said, "Oh, don't worry about that." He says, "You can pay me out of the profits. All you've got to do is keep making money for the business."

In the Internal Revenue Code there is what they call a Chapter S Corporation. Corporations have to pay taxes on their profits each year. This Sub-S Corporation was designed for small corporations with not too many stockholders. If you were a Sub-S Corporation, what you could do at the end of the year, instead of the corporation paying taxes, you would pay the profits out to the stockholders, then they would have to pay taxes on it, but you only got taxed once. So we were set up under that, and we were able to pay for the business out of the profits of the business, and it was a very profitable thing for me.

Lila: I think Av did that because he appreciated Keith. The business was about to go broke when he went to work for them because the bookkeepers hadn't known anything about what they were doing, and there was stuff going out that wasn't being billed and that sort of thing. I know Butch [Kay] told someone once that you saved the business for them. I think that was also a way that he knew his sons would be okay, because Keith would keep track of the money.

Keith: Well, he sold it to us at a pretty heavily discounted price, which he couldn't have done for just his own sons. In other words, if you are selling a business, like to your sons, it has to go for fair market value. But where I was an outsider and I was getting the same deal as that the boys were getting, they couldn't question that. That was okay.

KI: That's very interesting. So, Lila, what were doing during this time? You said you went to BYU, what were you studying?

Lila: Elementary education.

Keith: But she never went back to school [after we got married].

KI: Where were you stationed in the service?

Lila: California.

Keith: San Luis Obispo, California.

Lila: Well, first it was Camp Cook. You were there for what?

Keith: Almost a year, I guess.

Lila: Then they went on maneuvers to Fort Hood, Texas, and wives weren't able to go. It was a court-martial offense if you got caught there. So, I came home; Keith Jr. was just a couple of months old at the time. They were there for three months, and then when they went back, they

transferred them to Camp San Luis Obispo, which was closer to where we lived. We lived in Pismo Beach. Camp Cook is where Vandenberg is now.

KI: What branch of the service were you in?

Keith: Signal Corps. I was in the Headquarters Company.

KI: When you're drafted like that, do they just tell you where you're going, which branch of the service and everything?

Keith: Oh, yeah. They may even change you while you're there. Generally speaking, you are assigned to a unit and you stay there.

Lila: He started out at Fort Douglas, then went up to Fort Lewis, Washington, then Camp Gordon, Georgia, then Camp Cook, California, in like six weeks.

KI: Was it because of training?

Keith: Yes. We were training.

Lila: Well, they were going to stay in Camp Gordon, in fact, I almost had my plane tickets to go, when they sent them to Camp Cook. I got down to him, let's see, he was drafted in March, the first of March, and I got down there the sixth of May. Of course, they were still in basic, which meant they couldn't necessarily live off post. Normally, in basic he wouldn't be allowed any passes or anything, but the officers in their cadre were reservists and they didn't want to be there either, so he could come home.

Keith: Whenever you could afford the gasoline to drive home!

Lila: But sometimes you couldn't because we'd never know if you were going to be able to or not. We lived forty-four miles from camp. His check and my check, combined, came to \$120. Our rent to start with was \$60. But, you know, we were so blessed. When I first got there, I went and looked at all these places and the rent was so high. I got there sometime during the week and I knew he could get a pass for the weekend, and I was in a motel at the time. I thought, "Well, since he's going to have the pass for the weekend and there's a lot of places, I'll wait and let him help me decide what we need to do." Well, that weekend there was one apartment left. It didn't have a living room. It certainly wasn't one I would have chosen. There were two bedrooms, but no living room. It had a nice big kitchen. No couch, just table and chairs. We took it.

He'd met a fellow from Idaho who had been married two days before we were married. We were married on the 14th of February. They were married in the Idaho Temple. I'd got pregnant right off and so had she. So the two of them became really close friends. His wife was coming down and there was no place to live. So they moved in with us. The landlord said that would be fine, except they'd up the rent another \$10. But then that just made the rent \$35 a month, so we were able to do it.

We got along really well. I was so glad to have her move in because he would only get home no more than every other night and sometimes not that. I didn't know anybody and I was sick as a dog. I thought I was nuts, because I didn't know you were sick to start with and I wasn't very pregnant, you know.

I would just fix dinner and hope he'd come. If he showed up by 7, he was coming, and if he didn't, he wasn't. There was no phone. I can remember I had dinner ready and I went out and watched for the car and he didn't come. I just went in and put it away, didn't bother to eat. I didn't dare tell him how lonely I was because I was afraid he'd send me home, and the only thing worse than being that lonely was not being with him. I was scared to death. The doors didn't have good locks on them, so I had a butcher knife that I'd slide through the casing to hold the door shut.

Our back door opened into what was called Filipino Town. We didn't even walk down there together after dark. A woman didn't go down there alone during the daytime. Anyway, along about 10 o'clock, someone is banging on my door, scared me to death. I finally found out it was him, so I let him in. What had happened is that Tyra, the wife of his friend, had come, but the friend didn't have a car, so he had stayed so he could drive him in to Santa Maria, pick her up at the bus depot, and take them in to the hotel. So he came home and he says, "How would you like to have somebody move in with us?" When I found out it was them, I said, "I would love it."

So the next day, we drove in to Santa Maria and picked both of them up and took the guys out to camp and Tyra and I went home. That's how I met her. But we along just wonderful and we both had baby boys born the same day.

KI: You're kidding!

Lila: No. But at the time they had sent Cleve back east for training. Keith didn't have to go for training, because in the office he was doing what he was used to. But most of the guys that we associated with had to go different places for what they were training for. So they were on the east coast. If we had both been on the same coast, the babies would have been born different days. But as it was, they were both born on December 2. As soon as their training was through, they came back.

So then we got apartments in an apartment building, both of us. There was a hall with doors at both ends. The front door was locked, it was one that if somebody came you had to push a button to let them in. Everyone else in the building, there were two other women in the building, but they were gone all day. We had another friend move into one of the other apartments, so we would just shut the doors on both ends and leave our doors open. The babies would crawl back and forth and play together. When we went home, when the boys were about fifteen months old, they thought they'd lost their brother.

We really missed them. There's been a few couples of us that have kept in close contact. In fact, with Cleve and Tyra, the ones that we lived with, we get together with them once a year as a rule.

KI: Keith, you were in the service for two years?

Keith: Yes, two years.

KI: Was that the requirement for the draft?

Keith: The draft was only for eighteen months, but they extended it up to two years. I had forgotten about the extension until I was going through some of my Army orders and I ran across that one that said we were extended from eighteen months to two years.

KI: When you came back, did you go to Salt Lake?

Lila: We were here for almost a year before they transferred him back to Salt Lake. They would have preferred for him to have stayed in that [SLC] office, we preferred being here.

KI: So, Keith, Western Petroleum was what you did for the rest of your working life.

Keith: Yes, I was there for thirty-one years.

Lila: Then see, we sold our stock to [our son], Mark, in Western Petroleum.

KI: So you had Keith, then what happened?

Lila: Let's see. When Tyra and I would take the babies in the strollers downtown everyday, Pismo Beach was just a small resort town, right there on the ocean. So, after we got the work done and the babies got up from their morning nap, we'd always walk down to the drugstore and have a drink. We'd give the babies an empty ice cream cone. He didn't know there was ice cream came in them until we came home and Grandma showed it to him. It was lots messier! As we'd go downtown, any time those little boys would see anyone in uniform, they'd yell, "Daddy! Daddy!"

Then when we came home, I was expecting Kathy when we were transferred to Salt Lake, so she was born in Salt Lake. We lived there for the five years, then came back here and Mark was born. We lived downtown; the house is torn down now, kind of kitty corner from Central School. Then we built the house up here. We lived down there for five years waiting for the water that was coming next year. When it finally got here, we built and moved up here. We moved here 7 February 1963 and KayLynn was born here in September. We've been here ever since.

Keith: Yep, just here, a day at a time.

KI: Have you had any civic involvements?

Keith: The Vernal Lions Club.

Lila: I belonged to a federated club for a lot of years, helped get the swimming pool, you know, with Alta [Winward].

KI: Is that what it was called, the Federated Women's Club, or was it something else?

Lila: No, it was the Merrie Mrs. See, the Current Topics and there were two or three of them, they all belonged to the federated women's club.

KI: I am familiar with the Merrie Mrs. Was the Lions Club a pretty going concern?

Keith: Oh, my, yes. It was at that time.

Lila: We had over a hundred members.

Keith: You had to receive an invitation and there had to be an opening. It was capped at a certain number of members, like a hundred or something. In fact, the Lions were very instrumental in getting the Flaming Gorge Dam, the Field House. One of the main things for the Lions Club was the eyeglasses. They partnered with Helen Keller to provide eyeglasses for those who need them.

Lila: The State club used to be a huge club. There would be thousands when we would have our yearly conventions. In fact, when we had the convention, when we were the chairmen, we had over 1,000 people come. It was big.

Keith: But the Lions Club is like all the rest of the clubs, they're dwindling. You can't seem get new, young members to join.

KI: So many people have told me that. Did you ever have any involvement with the Chamber of Commerce or the Jaycees?

Keith: No.

Lila: He didn't like that.

KI: Because the Jaycees is another one that has pretty much dwindled out of existence, yet they used to be really active.

Lila: Now, Av always went to Chamber.

Keith: Chamber and Rotary, both.

Lila: He'd always want you to go to Chamber, but Keith never wanted to.

KI: What kind of church callings have you had? Besides being bishop, which you were when I moved here?

Keith: High council, stake clerk, stake executive secretary, stake Sunday school president, priests quorum advisor, teachers quorum advisor, ward clerk, finance clerk.

KI: When you built this house, what ward were you in?

Keith: Glines Ward, just Glines Ward. The boundaries of that are about what the Glines Stake boundaries are today.

Lila: Except we didn't have the downtown ward.

Keith: The boundary ran almost down to Vernal Avenue.

KI: Where did you attend church?

Keith: Right where it is today (1510 West Highway 40). It was a little white, frame building. It was torn down and they built another building there. Then I don't know how many times it's been remodeled and done over again.

Lila: Two or three times.

Keith: The first brick building was built in 1947, wasn't it?

Lila: Yes.

Keith: David O. McKay came out and dedicated our building and the one down in Naples.

Lila: At the same time.

Keith: I think it was about 1947.

Lila: Yes.

Keith: But that's where we've gone to church all the time, except about the five years we were down in Vernal Second Ward before we moved up here.

KI: Lila, what callings have you had?

Lila: I have taught every class in Primary. I was Relief Society president, stake homemaking leader, stake Primary president, stake Young Women's president, what they called the Guide Patrol, stake Guide Patrol [new scouts]. I taught Cub Scouts when my boys were there. I thought Cub Scouts was so important that, I was stake Primary president when Mark was a Cub Scout, and I volunteered to be a den mother because I thought it was such a good thing working with them that way.

Keith: Well, you were Primary president when Tim was in, weren't you?

Lila: But the only reason I was Tim's den mother when I was Primary president was I couldn't get a den mother! So, I was his. At that time, I didn't know how important it was.

I was the head scorekeeper for boys baseball.

Keith: You were camp director for Young Women. Then she graduated from that up to being president.

Lila: I was a counselor in the stake Young Women.

KI: Tell me what happened after you retired. When did you retire?

Keith: December 31, 1995. On the fifteenth of January 1996 we went on a mission for two years, back to Omaha, Nebraska. Then we came home. We worked in the temple. I think I was ward clerk. Terry [his brother] was bishop.

Lila: You were retired, honey, when you were bishop the second time, weren't you?

Keith: No, I was released as bishop back in '93.

KI: We moved here in '92 and you were the bishop.

Keith: I went in in '87, was released 15 April 1993, because Terry got put in right at income tax time. He was the scoutmaster all the time I was bishop. I got to where I hated stake conference because the stake would be up here wanting him for something else, a high councilman, which he had been before, this and that. I suppose I'm not a very good church member. I said, "No!"

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KI: You said you were bishop for the second time then. You were bishop one other time?

Keith: Yes.

KI: When was that?

Keith: About 1968.

KI: At the time were you in Ashley Stake?

Keith: Yes. The first time I was bishop I was in Ashley Stake. I was the first bishop of the Glines Second Ward.

Lila: Keith was the first bishop of Glines Second Ward when they divided [from Glines Ward, in 1973].

Keith: I had been councilor to Don Wardle in the Glines Ward. Then when they released him as bishop, they divided the wards into Glines First and Glines Second and I was then made bishop of Glines Second Ward. But because of the kidney stones I was carrying, I only lasted for four months.

Lila: It was really interesting. See, he was in the experimental program with that extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy.

Keith: But that didn't happen until about 1984.

Lila: It was that long before that he had to live with them.

Keith: I had to live with them all those years.

Lila: But he had kidney stones for thirty years. All the time. He had four surgeries, two on each kidney, where they cut like this, clear through the back muscles. Then they couldn't do it anymore or he would lose his kidneys, so then he had to live with it. They got so big that the kidneys had to balloon in order to function. By that time, he wasn't being able to work full time even. So then we went back to Indianapolis for that experimental program. When they took the stones out, he had four large test tubes full of rocks. They found out he had a tumor on the parathyroid.

Keith: Which was just pumping calcium into my system in enormous amounts.

Lila: But it was down behind the windpipe, so they didn't find it for a long time. They finally just did an exploratory operation. The doctor came to me and put his finger on his thumb and said, "It was that big! We should have been able to feel it, but it was behind the windpipe." So that stopped all that calcium coming in, but by that time he had the stones and when you've got stones, stuff just builds up around them.

Keith: But if you've ever seen three doctors that were excited, it was the surgeon, the urologist and the internal medicine guy that had been working with me trying to take care of the problem. When they found that tumor, they were so excited.

Lila: Well, they told me before Mark was born, the doctor said, "He has three or four, maybe five years at the most if we don't get them stopped." And he had them another twenty years. They just looked like rocks.

Keith: Just plain old gravel. They had to go into the kidney and break them up to bring them back out.

KI: They do that with lasers now.

Keith: They couldn't have done that with the laser because the kidneys were full of stones, they were big. They filled up the whole kidney and that was what was causing problem. They were expanding the kidney.

Lila: But after they got that done, then they put him in the water where they would zap it. That was the experimental part of it.

Keith: They'd break them into smaller pieces that you could pass.

Lila: He said it was really interesting. He could pass so much bigger ones than before with very little pain after they had done that to it. We don't know why, but it's okay.

KI: Tell me about your missions. The first was two years in Omaha, Nebraska, right?

Keith: Yes, then we came back here. We got home in January of 1998. We were here for three or four years. Then it was April 2002, wasn't it?

Lila: We've been home just a year.

Keith: Yeah, it was a year and a half we stayed [on our second mission].

Lila: We extended six months.

KI: Where did you serve your second mission?

Keith: Salt Lake City.

Lila: Church and Family History Mission.

KI: With that one you got to come home once in a while.

Lila: Yeah, quite often.

Keith: The executive secretary to the mission president out there, he said, "Your file is the biggest one I've got." You had to make application to get permission to come home. He said, "Well, yours is the fattest one there is."

Lila: But it had to do with where we were serving. It depended on where you were serving. Some of them couldn't because they didn't have the days off that we did. But we always had Saturday and Sunday off and any paid holiday because our bosses were paid workers. So if our area shut down, we didn't have to work.

Keith: We couldn't even get in to work.

Lila: Also, we had what they called T&R, Temple and Research, one day like that during the month. If you happened to catch all those together, well, that's how come we were home so long at Christmas when Annie passed away. We had our T&R, then the paid holidays, then the weekend. So we were able to be home all the times we were and we never missed any work days. We worked, let's see, prayer meeting was at 7:30 a.m.

Keith: Yes, the ones on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. The other one was at 6:30, on Mondays.

Lila: But the other days were at 7:30, then we worked until 4 o'clock, and we were through. It was more like a job.

Keith: It was exactly like a job.

Lila: It was enjoyable, but it wouldn't be my choice. We missed working with the young elders and sisters. We learned to love them so much. We have some we still hear from.

KI: It sounds fun. Do you think you'll do it again?

Lila: I don't think we can because of his health. But I think we would otherwise.

KI: I guess you need to stay here and hold the fort down for Keith and Nena [their son and daughter-in-law] to be gone.

Keith: For the time being, yeah. We kind of need to help hold things together while Keith and Rahmena are gone. [They were called as mission presidents to Guayaquil, Ecuador.]

Lila: Keith called last night. We don't know how he heard in Ecuador that Owen had an accident yesterday, Keith's brother. But Keith [Jr.] called last night to see how he was.

KI: Is it Owen that owns the Polar King? [659 West Main]

Keith: Yes.

KI: Has it always been just his business?

Keith: No, it was Mother's and Dad's.

KI: When did they open that?

Lila: They didn't open it.

Keith: They bought it from a guy named B.L. Leathers.

Lila: They bought it when we were living in Salt Lake. So it would have been the late '50s, probably, that they bought it.

KI: Then Owen just kind of took it over from them?

Keith: He bought it from them. Dad got ready to retire, and...

Lila: But Annie wasn't.

Keith: Mother said, "I'm not ready to retire." And she never did.

Lila: She was still going down and chopping onions.

Keith: She'd been down the day before [she died] and chopped the onions for them.

Lila: She was still trying to decide where she was going to have Christmas Eve dinner, with us or with Owen and Sherry and Kathy.

KI: And, Keith, how did your brother Kenneth die?

Keith: He was killed in a car wreck while he was serving in the armed forces. He was in the Air Force and was an air policeman.

Lila: It was kind of weird about that. He was stationed in Oklahoma and they had a three-day pass and they told us he was going to Texas with some friends for the weekend. There were four of them in the car and three of them were killed. They said the other one wasn't. But they wouldn't give us any information about it. Keith's parents went to Texas where the accident occurred and they were basically told to mind their own business and get out of there.

KI: How old was he?

Lila: He had turned twenty-one in November, because I remember you worrying about it at the time. You were wondering if he was twenty-one because it had something to do with the car he was driving and if there would be any repercussions on your parents.

Keith: Yeah, liability on Mom and Dad because the others were killed.

Lila: But you know, we always thought that surely that other boy would have contacted us, and he never did. It was so closed, they could get absolutely no information.

Keith: As far as we know, he must have gone to sleep and went off the road and went headlong into a concrete bridge abutment.

KI: It must have been so difficult for Annie.

Lila: Oh, she aged ten years that year. If you'd seen a picture prior to him being killed and a year afterward... She liked to worked herself to death after that.

Keith: She always worked long hours, but after Kenneth was killed, she just worked more hours.

KI: It was just her way to cope.

Keith: She didn't need any counseling, she just worked more.

Lila: All the time we lived in Salt Lake after that, they came out, but before that we would spend Christmas Eve out there, then we'd get up in the morning and the kids would see their things,

then we'd come out here for Christmas. She didn't want to spend Christmas here after that. They would come out and spend Christmas with us.

KI: Yes, I can see how that would happen. Let's backtrack a little bit. Can you tell me some of the businesses that you patronized downtown when you were younger?

Lila: Well, of course, Ashton's. What was Charles Hatch's little market? I don't know what the name was, maybe Hatch's market. It was over, well, there was the First Security Bank [39 East Main] and it was next to it. It was a little white, kind of frame grocery store. It wasn't very big. I can remember going in there and seeing the bananas hanging down on the stems.

Keith: Wong C. Wing had that store right next to Ashton's on Main Street.

KI: He had clothing and shoes?

Keith: It was general merchandise.

Lila: He was the Chinaman. Then Rexall Drug was just east of Ashton's.

Keith: What was the name of that café that was in there?

Lila: Sowards, and it was up just a little ways. That was Earlene's folks that had that.

Keith: I was thinking that was Millecamps'.

Lila: That was across the street. That was with the hotel. Isn't that the one you're thinking of? Because Earlene's folks had that one. She was my best friend. I told you about the Weeks' café there? Okay, Weeks was her grandmother. Earlene's father ran off and left them before she was born, and so her mother lived with her parents and worked in the restaurant. Then she married Carl Sowards. Then when her mother kind of retired from the café business, they ran it.

KI: Was this the place in Cobble Rock?

Lila: No, the one in Cobble Rock, that was Robin's [Richens] grandparents. But right beyond the Cobble Rock there was another little hamburger stand. But Sowards, on Main Street, just beyond Ashton's, they had a restaurant there for a while, then they moved and they were down east of the Vernal Drug with it.

Keith: Then there was the Quality Drug that was right next to the theater.

Lila: Then the Quality Drug was across the street by the Main Theater. Well, and the Confectionery that had been on Vernal Avenue, it moved over onto Main Street and then it burned one night. It was a big fire. A Johnson boy was working with the power, I guess with Utah Power and Light, and was electrocuted. I guess it had something to do with trying to turn off the power or something like that, but it was that night, with the fire and everything, that he was electrocuted. What were his parents name, honey?

Keith: Emery Johnson. His mother was a rather large lady and she took tickets at the Vogue Theater for years and years and years.

Lila: Emery is the one that you see at the [Vernal] cemetery. You'll see Johnson Drive or something out there because he was the sexton out there.

Let's see, what else? I can remember the pool hall

KI: There would have been one right there close to where you had the store.

Lila: Yes, there on the end.

Keith: Well, where Mr. S. Clothing was.

KI: Jorgensen's?

Lila: Well, Jorgensen's pool hall, wasn't that over on Main Street? There was a little one down past us.

KI: May Jorgensen had the Commercial Hotel [on Main Street] there and her husband had the pool hall.

Keith: Yes, right there. Well, I think Sam [Snyder, owner of Mr. S. Clothing, 48 West Main] bought that property from them. See, Sam had been over on Vernal Avenue, then prior to that he had bought the store that was on Main Street from Russ Holley.

Lila: But that little pool hall that was down the street from where our store was, when I was, oh, I couldn't have been much older than three, because we moved by the time I was four over to the other store. But I have a niece that's just eighteen months younger than me. We had gone down to Central School to play on the slides and things and were coming back and she got tired. She sat down on those steps at the pool hall because she was tired. Of course, where I bummed around all over there, my mother had told me the devils lived there, and I was to stay out of there. I went in to all the others, but she didn't want me going in there. So Alberta sat down there and I couldn't get her up. I said, "Berta! Get up! Devils will get you!" I couldn't get her up, so I ran just as fast as I could up to the store and said, "Come quick! The devils are going to get Berta!" You know, I can remember, it must have been the rodeo or something and the Indians would come over. They would wear their old headpieces and everything. I remember going out. My mother had given me a nickel and I was going up to the Confectionery, and here comes this Indian and he's all dressed in that. I looked at that nickel with the headdress on it and I looked at him, and I turned around and ran back to my mother.

KI: It must have been a special event if he was dressed like that.

Lila: We used to have a sheriff here, Caldwell. He wore these black outfits and he always had his six guns, and a fancy hat.

Keith: Oh, yeah, a black Stetson.

Lila: When he wasn't sheriff, he still wore his guns, and he was a gambler. That's how he supported his family. I had a man call and he was wanting to know different things about the valley and somebody told him to call me. He asked me about him. He had his picture. He said, "I guess it must have been rodeo time or something." I said, "No, he always dressed that way." I couldn't convince him. He *always* dressed that way.

Keith: He was Howard L. Caldwell and my uncle was Howard A. Caldwell.

Lila: Howard, the one that was the sheriff, had a daughter my age. Later, at a class reunion, I was telling her about it and she said, "Oh, my dad always dressed that way." I said, "That's what I tried to tell him, but he wouldn't believe me."

KI: Gambling was really quite a going concern in the '40s and '50s from what I've read, especially right downtown. They would go in the back rooms at night and hold their games. They were quite illegal.

Lila: But they did it anyway. Well, my niece, when she was just a month or two old, she got pneumonia really bad and my mother wanted some alcohol to rub her down with, that was one of the things they did, and of course, it was during Prohibition, so she went to N.J. Meagher and he got it for her.

KI: He was a man of many talents, wasn't he?

Do you remember some of the doctors in town? Where was the hospital where were you born? Or were you born at home?

Lila: I was born at home.

Keith: I was a born at home.

Lila: But the hospital was on Main Street by the Episcopal Church. That's where [Keith] had his appendix out and I had my appendix out. But it was like, with my sister, see, I'm quite a bit younger. By the time I was nine, all my sisters were married. But my sister, my parents' third child, had her first two children at home. Then she had her third one, which was born during World War II, in the hospital. But up until then, 'most everybody was having their babies at home.

KI: Do you remember there being doctors' offices or a little hospital above Wells Fargo Bank? [Formerly Uintah State Bank; 39 E. Main.]

Keith: Oh, yes. The door was on Vernal Avenue.

Lila: Right, and you went upstairs.

Keith: If you could see the stairs today, you'd see ugly marks on them, those are my fingernails digging in to keep me from going up there!

KI: Dr. Shimmin had an office up there.

Keith: Yeah, he had his right in front.

Lila: His was the corner office.

KI: He told me he'd be in his office and you could just hear the kids screaming all the way up the stairs: "No, Mommy, no!!"

Lila: Well, the way they used to do teeth... Before I went to Dr. Shimmin, there was a doctor, I can't think of his name, but he had his office over on First South and First West. There's a white house there. Anyhow, I can remember going to him and his drill, he ran it with his foot. He'd drill it out and then he'd put cotton with cloves on it in your tooth, then you'd go home. Then you'd come back later, another day or so, maybe the next week, to get the filling in.

But back to above Wells Fargo. There was a Dr. Clark who had an office there, and Dr. Hansen. What was that doctor that had that funny name? [Dr. Hegstead.] I can't think of his name. He was taking care of me when I had the ear problems. I had really bad earaches in the fourth grade and it was before antibiotics. My ear would run this awful smelling stuff and it just always hurt terrible. I remember going and him saying to my mother, "We've got one last resort. If this doesn't work, you're on your way to Salt Lake for a mastoid operation." But he said, "They've come out with this new stuff, it's sulfa, we'll see how it works." And it worked.

Keith: Dr. Clark, that was with Dr. Hansen, he went into the Army during World War II and then when he came back, I don't think he even came back to Vernal. He set up practice in Salt Lake and was one of the very finest surgeons almost anywhere. [Ed. note: it was common for people from Vernal to go to Salt Lake to see Dr. Clark.]

KI: Right after the war, Dr. Eskelson was practicing in the old hospital and he's the one who recruited Spendlove and Seager.

Lila: Prior to that Dr. Seager was working as the company doctor in Bingham.

KI: Right. When he came out here he did a lot of the industrial stuff. Maybe this had something to do with your business, I hope not, but Dr. Seager told me stories about being the company doctor for some of those oil businesses and some of the horrific accidents that happened, mostly because of the lack of training, the lack of safety measures and precautions. People complain about OSHA, but it kind of has its place.

Keith: Well, OSHA is like a lot of the other environmental [organizations]. You were too far to one side before they came in, then after they came in, you went way too far to the other extreme.

I know, I went through OSHA. I guess we lost three employees during the time I was with Western Petroleum. Killed on the job.

KI: He told me stories about guys, kids, they'd pull in and just slap them up on the rig, on-the-job training, and they'd be killed.

Keith: They would just get up there and do it. No training, no nothing.

KI: Right, he said they lost too many young people that way.

Lila: The oil really changed Vernal.

Keith: When I was in high school, I got a job in Rangely, a roustabout. The only thing I remember us doing was laying pipeline on top of the ground. I'd been working there for about a week. Oh, I loved it. It was hard work and it was hot, but, boy, the money was good. You'd never seen those kind of wages before. Then they got hold of Dad and said I'd either have to quit working or he'd have to sign a waiver because of my age. He wouldn't sign the waiver. I had to come back and pitch hay.

Lila: Then there was a store called O.P. Skaggs, down where Garden Gate is; that was a grocery store [45 East Main]. Keith worked there.

Keith: Yeah, my cousin and I both worked there. We'd be unloading watermelons and invariably we'd drop a few. The only thing we had time to do was to eat the heart of them. It was a lot of fun, stocking shelves. We had fun. The head cashier, we were able one day to get a pin and pin some Limburger cheese to her apron. She couldn't figure out where in the world that horrible smell was coming from!

KI: Lila, did you ever have any jobs when you were in high school?

Lila: Yes. Well, I worked there at the store. After high school I worked at Rexall Drug. I worked there when I'd be home in the summer from school. Then when we came home from the service, we came home and had a baby and a high chair and a crib and a stroller, and that was it. Most of our friends had been married and had homes, you know. We talked about maybe me going to work so we could get ahead.

When we got home, the girl who was working at the drugstore was going to have surgery and wanted to know if I could work for her for three weeks. So we thought I'd do that first, you know. Annie was going to take care of Keith. I worked those three weeks and I thought, "Oh, I don't like being away from my baby and this is killing me!" So I thought, "Okay, that's it."

Well, I get home and Keith says, "Do you want a job? I've got you one." I thought, "Well, I guess if he wants me to work..." And I said, "Where?" And he says, "Well, do you want it or don't you?" I said, "Well, I guess so." He said, "The hours are rotten and the pay's worse, but right here at home."

Keith: She's been here ever since.

Lila: Never sorry. The pipeline reminded me of Mark, though. When he got out of high school, he was through with school, he hated it. He wasn't going to go anymore. So he got a job in the oil field laying pipe and bought him a brand new pickup. It was scary because he had it souped up. All the kids said it was the hottest thing in town. In fact, I knew he really loved Connie [his wife] when he sold his pickup. By that time he was out at school [University of Utah], so I had the pickup. The guys that came to see the pickup, I wouldn't let any of them take it without me going with them. They would want to go try it out themselves, but I wouldn't let them. Anyway, the guy that bought it totaled it within the week.

But anyway, he worked a while in the oil field, a couple of months or so, and he decided he wanted to go to school. He did not like this. So his dad said, "Well, that's just fine, Son, as soon as that pickup's paid for." He had that pickup paid for by the time school started the next fall. He decided he did not want to have to earn his money that way, out in that hot sun, and dirty.

Keith: Out cleaning casing. They pull the casing out of the well, then they have to clean it. It's dirty, filthy, rotten work.

KI: Our time's about up, so is there anything else you'd like to tell me?

Keith: You've asked all the good questions.

Lila: I really appreciate you coming.

KI: I really appreciate that you allowed me to come and interview you.